

CLAIMS

1. A method of copying a printing plate intended for printing using the wet offset technique, said plate comprising a base substrate and a photosensitive layer which is soluble in a solvent, said method comprising selectively eliminating said photosensitive layer at suitable locations and being characterized in that said selective elimination comprises: depositing droplets of said solvent at said suitable locations; and rinsing the plate to evacuate the deposited solvent which by then is charged with the photosensitive layer eliminated from said locations and is inactive.
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2. The method according to claim 1 for copying a printing plate, comprising a metallic base substrate which has a hydrophilic surface coated with an ink-accepting metallic layer which is itself coated with a photosensitive layer which is soluble in a solvent, said method comprising selectively eliminating said photosensitive layer in accordance with claim 1, followed by chemical attack of said ink-accepting metallic layer which has been denuded at suitable locations.
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3. The method according to claim 1 for copying a printing plate intended for printing using the wet offset technique, said plate comprising a base substrate which has a hydrophilic surface coated with a photosensitive ink-accepting layer based on an ink-accepting lacquer which is soluble in the solvent; said method comprising selectively eliminating said ink-accepting layer at suitable locations and being characterized in that said selective elimination comprises: depositing droplets of said solvent at said suitable locations; and rinsing the plate to evacuate the deposited solvent which by then is charged with the layer eliminated from said locations and is inactive.
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4. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the deposited droplets consist of droplets of an alkaline or acidic aqueous solution, advantageously alkaline, and in that said rinsing is with water.
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5. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the volume(s) of said droplets is(are) in the range 1 picoliter to 100 picoliters, advantageously in the range 4 picoliters to 30 picoliters, and they are deposited under conditions which produce
- 5 droplet/photosensitive layer contact surfaces the mean diameter(s) of which is (are) in the range 10 μm to 150 μm , advantageously in the range 30 μm to 85 μm .
- 10 6. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that said deposition of droplets is carried out using an inkjet printhead.
- 15 7. The method according to any one of claims 3 to 6, carried out to copy a positive plate the ink-accepting layer of which is photosensitive, said layer comprising an effective quantity of at least one solubility inhibitor, characterized in that said solvent is employed under conditions in which the action of said inhibitor is neutralized; the droplets of said solvent being deposited on the plate heated to a temperature in the range 40°C to 90°C, advantageously in the range 55°C to 65°C; and/or the droplets of said solvent being deposited on the plate heated to a temperature in the range 40°C to 90°C, advantageously in the range 55°C to 65°C ;and
- 20 in that said solvent is evacuated, by rinsing, at a plate and/or solvent temperature at which the solvent is inactive.
- 25 8. The method according to any one of claims 3 to 6, carried out to copy a negative plate the ink-accepting layer of which is photosensitive, said layer comprising an effective quantity of at least one insolubilizing agent, characterized in that said deposition of droplets is followed by a treatment causing hardening of the ink-accepting layer at locations not covered by said droplets; said treatment being followed by said rinsing then by
- 30 drying.
9. The method according to any one of claims 3 to 8, characterized in that it further comprises baking the copied plate.